

NEWS

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

You will have been watching events following the sad news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II last week. As you know, arrangements have been made for Her Majesty's state funeral on Monday 19th September, which has also been declared a bank holiday. The College will be closed on this day. Those Boarding students who are in residence on Monday will have the opportunity to watch the funeral and will all observe the 2 minute silence.

You may be interested to know that the [Hertfordshire's online Book of Remembrance](#) is available, and has been opened by the Royal Family to remember the Queen, which you can contribute to.

IMPORTANT DATES

Week commencing

Saturday 17th September

Open Morning (lessons finish at 1205)

Monday 19th September

College closed (further details below)

Thursday 6th October

HPV Vaccinations (Year 8 students)

Contact us:

General communications to:

admin@hockerill.com

Absence

communications to:

absence@hockerill.com

HOCKERILL NEWS

Saturday 17th September – amendment to finishing time

Please be reminded that tomorrow is our Open Morning and a large number of visitors is expected. Inevitably traffic congestion will be increased near the College. Please bear this in mind when you are dropping and collecting your child as there will be no parking available. **Please note that lessons on Open Morning will end at 1205hrs and not at the normal finishing time.** Students can be collected from Boarding Houses at 1230hrs.

Problems with access to SIMS-Parent

Apologies to all of you who have not yet had a reply to requests for help with access to the SIMS-Parent App. Hopefully, we can give you some guidance here to try to get you signed in.

The overwhelming majority of the problems exist because you may not realise that there are two methods of registering for an account.

- When you register, if you just type an email address into the Username box, click next and enter a password, you have set up a SIMS ID. If this is the case, you sign on to the app or website using the SIMS icon which is the first one in the row of available options.
- If however, you chose to press the 'Register with an External Account' button instead, you will then have picked an icon (Apple/Facebook/Google/Microsoft/Twitter) and registered for the SIMS app using that account. If you did this, you need to use the same icon when you sign in on the app or website. The benefit of this option is that you do not need to remember yet another password, however, you do need to remember which account you used to register.

NOTE: If you have registered by creating a SIMS-ID, you cannot log on using, for example, the Google icon just because you used a gmail or googlemail address as your SIMS-ID. Conversely, if you registered using one of the External Providers, you will not be able to sign on using the SIMS icon.

The next barrier is that your device has, unhelpfully, stored one of the incorrect attempts that you have had to sign on, as your credentials. The app will then be trying to pull that in automatically and it's preventing you from signing on. If this is happening, uninstalling and reinstalling the app will clear the invalid data and force the app to let you sign on from scratch. On a PC, you will need to delete the stored password (via the three dots in the top right of your browser, settings, autofill, password manager).

Non-Uniform Days

The College organises a number of non-uniform days which are occasions when students may wear their own choice of (appropriate) clothing to wear to school in exchange for a donation towards a worthy cause.

To improve efficiency at our end and reduce the burden on students and parents, we have enabled WisePay to accept donations for all non-uniform days at the start of the year. We are asking for a minimum donation of £7 per student and parents can pay by clicking on the 'donations' icon within their [WisePay account](#). Students will then not be expected to bring in cash donations on the day.

The following days are non-uniform days (all Saturdays):

- 15th October
- 26th November
- 28th January
- 4th March
- 25th March
- 13th May

Additionally, students may wear a Christmas Jumper on Wednesday 14th December.

This year we would like to raise money which will contribute to improving the outdoor environment including planting, seating and bike storage. We will also make a donation to a local charity at Christmas.

Please remember that participation in non-uniform days is not compulsory for students. Those who do not wish to participate may wear their full College uniform but a donation is required for those who do participate.

Parent and Student Information Presentations

For any parents who missed these events, recordings of the presentations will be available shortly.

Trips And Exchanges

Trips and exchanges are an integral part of language learning at Hockerill and we are very keen to get them re-started. However, the impact of Brexit, COVID restrictions, and the more recent updates to Keeping Children Safe in Education, have meant that we need to carefully review all our processes in order to ensure the safety of all students and staff involved. As soon as we have more information about the provision we can offer this academic year, we will let you know.

Dr Carmen Millán

Director of Languages

Clubs

There have been a few minor amendments to the Extra-Curricular Clubs Programme, which has since been updated and placed on the College website. Please find the amended [document here](#).

An individual Year Group timetable has been created and can be found either via the link below or via the College website – College Life – Co-Curricular

[Year 7](#)

[Year 8](#)

[Year 9](#)

[Year 10](#)

[Year 11](#)

[Year 12](#)

[Year 13](#)

Email protocol

Please be aware when sending communications to the College that staff are only expected to read and respond to emails during working hours. They are not able to check emails during a lesson. You should receive a response to your communication within two working days.

Please use admin@hockerill.com and your email will be forwarded to the relevant member of staff. To communicate with Heads of Year, please use the relevant year group followed by @hockerill.com (for example year7@hockerill.com).

The PSHE Curriculum including the Relationships and Sex Education Programme

Please find further information about the [PSHE curriculum here](#).

HPV Vaccination for Year 8 students - Thursday 6th October

The HPV vaccination helps protect boys and girls from HPV-related cancers. This will take place on Thursday 6th October for all Year 7 students. Please complete the electronic form contained within [this letter](#). Any parents who wish to decline the vaccine still need to complete the form indicating this.

Please be aware that the electronic link will close at 2.00pm on Wednesday 5th October.

BMX Racing Club

I would like to inform you of the relaunch of the Hockerill BMX Racing Club at Braintree BMX track with ex-National Champion coach Jools Allen. Jools is former coach of current Olympic, World and European Champion, Beth Shriever, who started her journey at Braintree and whom many former members of the club were lucky enough to watch practise on many a Wednesday afternoon. Priority has already been given to Year 7 students, who applied last week. However, there are still two spaces available, which I am offering to students in Years 8 and 9 who have never ridden with us before. The club will initially run for four weeks until we break over winter and resume at Easter.

The dates are 21st and 28th September and 5th and 19th October.

We meet at the minibus promptly at 1545hrs and return to College by 1800hrs after a full hour's riding. Boarders will need to arrange dinner with their boarding tutors, who will be informed of their participation.

The total price will be £60 for the four hour-long sessions and includes minibus transport to and from Braintree, hire of bikes and full-face helmets. I ask that if your child is interested in participating, please [complete this form](#) giving your permission.

The club is open to female and male riders who will be chosen on a first-come, first-served basis and not on ability. Once I email you that their place is confirmed (and no sooner), I would ask that payment is made via WisePay, reference BMX Racing Club Michaelmas 2022.

The students will need to wear trainers, long-sleeved tops, long-legged bottoms (preferably not baggy) and gloves for protection. We hold the right to refuse participation if these conditions are not met. The students can also bring a drink and a snack to eat at the track. The club is a popular one, so attendance every week is expected.

Should you have any further queries, please e-mail me directly on russella@hockerill.com

Mr A Russell

Free School Meals

Media reports have brought to everyone's attention the challenges facing many people in light of escalating living costs. The College is keen for the student community to be in the best possible position to focus on their work and to enjoy their time in school.

Ensuring that children are suitably nourished is an important step towards being well equipped for their day in school, Free School Meals (FSM) are a valuable way for eligible children to receive a free, balanced meal at lunchtime.

Hertfordshire County Council have published some helpful information on criteria and how to apply for this valuable benefit. We encourage parents to check to establish whether or not their child/children qualify and, where appropriate, to complete the application process. Once submitted and approved, a payment to be made directly to the College and students receive their lunch in the same way as other students.

Further information can be found here:

[Free School Meals - Factsheet](#)

[Free School Meals - Application](#)

There is also a benefit to schools in that, for each eligible child, the College can receive additional funding to support educational and social outcomes.

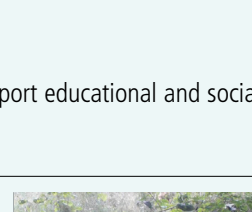
Nurturing Nature

While many people may have been enjoying the extremely hot summer wildlife across the country faced very real threats from wildfires and the most simple of things, a lack of water.

Within the College our small pond experienced significant evaporation and, like any other wildlife, our resident fox cubs began earlier this year, pond defenders in need of a cool spot and a source of water.

Access to some clean water allowed us to monitor their welfare through our carefully placed camera traps. With the restart of clubs, students will continue to monitor their welfare as well as learn how to maintain and improve local biodiversity through the autumn and winter months.

Mr C Gilman



BOARDING NEWS

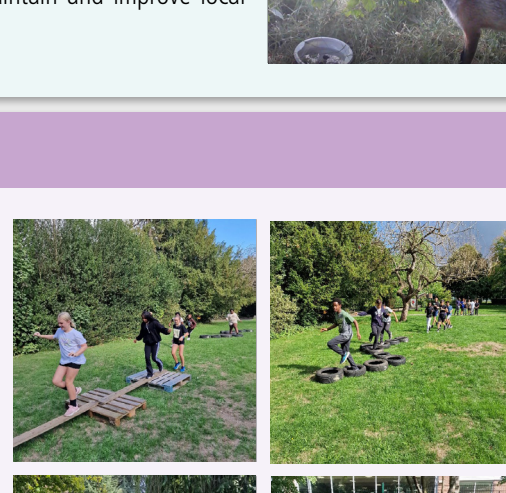
Boarding Parents' Open House

On the afternoon of Friday 23rd September (1445-1540hrs) all of the Boarding Houses will be open for boarding parents to come and meet members of staff who work in their child's Boarding House, refreshments will also be served. Friday 23rd September coincides with collection for the exeat weekend. Should you wish to attend please fill in the short online form [via the link here](#). The form will close at 1200hrs on Monday 19th September.

Team Building

Full Boarders had the opportunity to take part in team games and a competition on Saturday 10th September. This proved to be an exciting activity for the students, which they all seemed to enjoy. The students had the opportunity to race around a low-level obstacle course, take part in a water carrying race and participate in a team race having to overcome several obstacles. The competitions were led by our Senior House Captains who did a fantastic job.

Mr D Riley



HOCKERILL PARENTS AND FRIENDS

Hockerill Parents and Friends are a parents' organisation, whose primary aim is to facilitate contact between parents. We run several social and fundraising events over the course of the school year, which we publicise here on the Hub.

We are a core group of five trustees, supported by a wider network of parent volunteers. Every parent is automatically a member of HPF, but if you'd like a more hands-on role, please contact us on hpf@hockerill.com. It is a great way to meet new parents and feel a part of this vibrant school community.



250 Club

Did you know that Hockerill has its very own community lottery, otherwise known as the 250 Club? For a donation of £5 per month, you are entered into our monthly draw to win £100 or £250 at Christmas. All proceeds go directly back into projects to benefit the school and students.

To join, please [complete this form](#) which can then be handed into the Office or emailed to hpf@hockerill.com

Pre-loved uniform

If you're struggling to find any items of uniform or want to pick up some extras 'just in case', head to our [Facebook page](#)

Here, you can sell and exchange pre-loved uniform either for a modest fee or a donation to HPF. If any parents have good quality items, which they'd like to get rid of, it's a great place to do just that!

Thank you!

The HPF Team

WE ARE RECRUITING

Our latest vacancies can be [found here](#).